

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT IN LIBRARIES IN INTERNET ERA

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ABSTRACT

The following article is a modest attempt to discuss the need of the collection development, various sources of collection building in the Libraries keeping in view the shrinking budget in the age of ICT. The paper also discusses various tools which are instrumental in providing balanced and appropriate collections in the Libraries.

KEYWORDS: Collection Development, Acquisition of Documents, Library Collections

INTRODUCTION

Library collection development is the process of planning and acquiring a balanced collection of library materials of many formats, including books, periodicals, online resources, and other media. Library documents include printed books, journals and audio-visual items. Acquisition of appropriate documents in any kind of library is considered as one of the most intricate and tedious task. Collections are developed by librarians and library staff by buying or otherwise acquiring materials over a period of time, based on assessment of the information needs of the library's users. In addition to ongoing materials acquisition, library collection development includes:

- The creation of policies to guide material selection
- Replacement of worn or lost materials
- Removal (weeding) of materials no longer needed in the collection
- Planning for new collections or collection areas
- Cooperative decision-making with other libraries or within library consortia

As far as library collection procedure is concerned, it needs not only intellectual caliber but also a policy through which a sound collection will be made available in shrinking low budget. It needs to be tackled very systematic and disciplined way. There is huge number of books being published in every subject throughout the world. In India, millions of books and other documents are being published in many languages. The exponential and ever lasting growth in the documents is creating a big problem for librarian, information scientists and information managers. They are collectively responsible for proper and suitable collection for the libraries in minimum cost. In recent years, the libraries are also facing challenge of incorporating electronic books in their repertoire. These are now included in the collections of large academic and special libraries. The popularity of e-books has grown since their introduction in the early 1980s. Therefore, a sound policy will be needed to tackle this problem.

There are certain traditional acquisition tools which are used to build sound and justifiable collections in the libraries. With the advent of computer and internet technologies, a number of modern and sophisticated methods have been

added which are helpful in proper and sound acquisition of documents for a library. On the other hand, the electronic book industry is also posing problems in the acquisition of printed documents. In these circumstances, the librarians are on threshold to logically distribute their funds for collection of printed as well as non printed items for their libraries. The following are a range of tools and methods through which we build sound and logical collection in the library with shrinking budgets. Internet has paved a way to select better and suitable documents for the library in many ways. In other words, acquisition of books and journals in internet era is now comparatively easier to do. Following are various book selection tools which are being utilized by the libraries of each category.

Few are traditional in nature and others are produce of modern era:

PUBLISHER'S CATALOGUES

Publisher's catalogues are one of the most helpful and traditional method of acquisition of documents in the libraries. These are published by publishers on a certain intervals usually after a gap of one year. But the authenticity of these catalogues is not very high. The other problems associated with these catalogues are that most of them provide only list of publications without any abstract. In these circumstances, it is neither possible nor feasible to select a particular document for a modern library. The prices mentioned in these catalogues are changing considerably. Now online catalogue of books are being available on the internet accompanied with short abstract. These short abstract are comparatively helpful to select a document for the library. With above mentioned limitations, still, these catalogues are used to purchase documents in the library. A list of few very important Indian Publisher's Catalogue providers is given below:

- Book Talk, 1970-Monthly. Wiley Eastern, New Delhi.
- Vikas News, Monthly. Vikas Publishing House, New Delhi.
- Oxford University Press Catalogue. OUP, New Delhi.
- New Arrivals. Monthly. Jain Book Agency, New Delhi.
- Universal Book News, 1965-Monthly. Gokhale Market, New Delhi.

LIBRARY CATALOGUES

Library catalogues list the titles owned by a library, and in some cases, they are used to provide service of interlibrary loan. Their main purpose is to help patrons and librarians to locate items, while keeping track of and organizing them. Sometimes they are used for the development of collections as "stock selection tools". Collection development librarians can use a library catalogue in their work, as a subject bibliography, which is without the evaluative factor. On the other hand, Union Catalogues are list of holdings of number of libraries. Both are recognized as book selection tool for several decades. Selection of a particular document through library and union catalogues are comparatively better as the mentioned books are already selected by a certain library. Therefore, there is greater possibility that these books are better in content and authenticity. Using library catalogues for collection development has some advantages that include helping to identify materials written about a subject area, by doing a subject search. It also gives some standard information on author, publisher, ISBN, and possibly prices, which may assist collection librarians with selection and acquisition. The limitation with these catalogues is again that, these are not up-to-date and contains usually information regarding old documents.

BOOK REVIEWS

Book Reviews are the critical observation regarding a particular document either by an expert in same discipline or by publisher himself/ herself. These may be a regular publication usually monthly or it may be appeared in some journals. These are also helpful tools for selecting a document for the library. It usually include critical appraisal of the book as well as the author. Through these Reviews, we can possibly select better document for the library. Some of the leading newspapers covering reviews are: The Times (London), Times of India (Mumbai), Herald Tribune (Paris), etc. Few publications which are devoted for book review are Aslib Book List, Books Abroad, British Book News, Indian Book Chronicle, Library Review, New York Times Book Review etc.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Bibliographies are also one of the recognized forms of book selection tool. Though bibliographies do not provide critical comments for a book but provides detail description of a particular document. Therefore it is being utilized for book acquisition in libraries. Some of the important bibliographies include: British National Bibliography, Indian Books in Print, Indian National Bibliography, Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory, and Bibliographic Index etc.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are also considered as one of the basic instruments through which proper selection of document can be made for libraries. A newsletter provides brief information about a new document. Usually it provides information regarding title, contents and author.

VENDORS

Roaming vendors are also useful for acquisition of reference books. Usually these vendors are seen distributing dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographies etc. The most important and useful feature of this tools is the availability of books in its physical format. As the documents are readily available physically, therefore the authenticity and quality of content may be checked on spot. The limitations attached with vendors are that usually they are confined with reference books.

ONLINE BOOKSHOPS

Online Book shops are the newer tool of book selection which are not providing only abstract of a particular book but also provides online order of the same. Several leading international, national and regional publishers make the stock position of publications held by them on the internet through websites. These bookshops are available on the internet and provide a brief abstract of the book with latest price. Following are some major internet bookshops which are providing documents in a variety of subjects:

Table 1

S. No	Name of Internet Book Shop	Website of Internet Bookshop
1.	Amazon.Com	http://www.amazon.com
2.	Amazon.co.uk	http://www.amazon.co.uk
3.	Barnes and Noble	http://www.barnesandnoble.com
4.	Worldwide Books	http://www.worldwide.com
5.	Blackwells.co.uk	http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk

Table 1: Contd.,		
6.	Heritage Bookshop	http://www.heritage.books/shopping.html
7.	TSO online bookshop	http://tso.co.uk/site.asp
8.	Alibris	http://alibris.com
9.	D.K. Agencies, India	http://www.dkagencies.com
10.	Khemraj Shrikrishandas, India	http://www.khemraj.com
11.	Powell's books	http://www.Powells.com
12.	Better World Books	http://www.BetterWorldBooks.com
13.	Book Mooch	http://www.BookMooch.com
14.	Skyo	http://www.Skyo.com
15.	Thrift Books	http://www.ThriftBooks.com
16.	The Strand	http://www.StrandBooks.com
17.	Abe Books	http://www.AbeBooks.com
18.	Half	http://www.Half.com
19.	Biblio	http://www.Biblio.com
20.	PaperBackSwap	http://www.PaperBackSwap.com
21.	BooksAMillion	http://www.BooksAMillion.com
22.	Deadalus Books	http://www.DeadalusBooks.com
23.	Book Renter	http://www.BookRenter.com
24.	Magers and Quinn Booksellers	http://www.MagersAndQuinn.com

WEBSITES

Websites of the publishers and distributors are nowadays providing brief abstract of latest books. Apart from the publishers and distributors websites, there are certain independent websites which are also providing critical analysis of current published items in almost all disciplines. A number of publishers of journals publish online editions in addition to paper based editions and many such publishers make the current issues or contents pages of recent issues available on the internet for access free of charge. Some of the publishers also maintain archives of contents of back volumes of their esteemed journals.

OPAC OF UNIVERSITY AND SPECIAL LIBRARIES

A number of libraries in various countries make their web based Online Public Access Catalogues or web OPACs on the internet. These are very good sources for selecting useful titles for acquisition in libraries and for providing inter-library-loan and document delivery supply services. Online Public Access Catalogue is the newer and alternate mode of traditional card catalogue. Most of Indian libraries and almost all international libraries of America and European countries have provided their catalogues either on internet or intranet. These catalogues are not only useful for the clientele of the library in a number of ways but also those who are accessing those catalogues for any other purpose. These are more users friendly and having accurate and current information about a particular document available in the library as compare to traditional handmade catalogue cards. These catalogues may be utilized by other libraries while selecting a suitable and worth document for a library. Almost all information which are needed to select a document, are available in these catalogues. These are easily accessible through their parent institutions websites.

READER'S SUGGESTIONS

Readers or Clienteles of a library should be considered as one of the most important component of book selection. Though they are not considered as a book selection tool but they are supposed to contribute their valuable suggestion

regarding book selection. They can inform us about a particular book considering quality of content, authenticity, clarity, or any other feature which a student can think. They can not be underestimated while selecting a book for any kind of library especially academic and special libraries.

CONCLUSIONS

A sound policy and an eye upon the available documents can only help the book selector to do justice while selecting and building balanced collection in the library. Incorporation of e-books can also help them to save the space of the library. In the age of information and communications technology (ICT), there is very urgent need to acquaint all librarians and other library staff to make use of these resources while selecting a suitable document for their libraries. Then, a library will be in the position to entertain their users with their desired documents.

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